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enforcement of the act. It is only to be regretted that the use of this material is not made more available by an index, and that the text of the Interstate Commerce Act is not reprinted as an appendix to the volume.

Charles K. Burdick.

THE MONROE DOCTRINE—AN INTERPRETATION. By ALBERT BUSHNELL HART. Boston: LITTLE BROWN & Co. 1916. pp. xiv, 445.

To lay bare the sources, to trace the gradual modification and development, to outline the present scope, to frame a working definition suited to modern conditions and to hazard a prognostication of the effect upon the future of that oft-invoked yet somewhat nebulous and inchoate Article of American Political Faith known as the Monroe Doctrine, such is the complex task the author of this book has set for himself. Reasonably perfect attainment of these aims, particularly in a small volume, demands a multiplicity of talents. To achieve success a writer must first of all be endowed with a superhuman abundance of patience to sift the chaos of overlapping or contradictory utterances of commentators and public men, in office and without, before the time of Monroe as well as after, who have delivered themselves of opinions dealing with the subject matter of the Doctrine. He must examine these opinions minutely in order to select for special emphasis those which have interpreted, extended, altered or perpetuated the principles formulated by Adams and Monroe and to reject, after labelling them so that he who reads may beware, those whose principal consequence has been obfuscation. In this examination he must combine with the trained insight of the political scientist the restraining impartiality of the judge. He must possess the verbal dexterity of the lexicographer and the clairvoyant's foresight. And finally he must bring to his work the constructive literary ability of the historian, the power to marshal facts in orderly sequence, to point out the unifying principle running through them and to present the results of his research in a form at once organized, clear and coherent.

Exercise of many of these talents is manifest in this book. Pains-taking analysis of the principal extracts from statesmen and writers brings to the reader's attention the influence of the particular circumstances which called forth the remarks and uncovers the concealed motive or idea lying beneath them. Professor Hart avoids most skillfully the dangerous shoals of personal political preference and discusses the performances of Republican, Democrat and Progressive alike with scrupulous non-partisanship. It is to be regretted that the same spirit of impersonality has not been observed toward contemporary commentators, for certain unnecessary remarks about Professor Usher detract from the dignity of the book and seem to exhibit questionable taste. Most entertaining and original, however, is the forecast of the future, which embraces a clever analysis of American character and belief and a comparison of these with the attitude of the remainder of the world, especially Germany. It also discusses at length the gravity of the "Doctrine of American Protectorates" and the responsibility assumed by the United States in its new rôle of international policeman of certain portions of Latin-America and concludes with a well reasoned appeal for military preparedness if the present "American Doctrine", in which Professor Hart seems thoroughly to believe, but which seems admittedly to be no part of international law, is to be maintained. The author's formulation of this

modern "American Doctrine" of "Permanent Interest" "as a condensed statement of what he believes to be the body of principles held by the American people" discloses thorough familiarity with international events of recent years and keen appreciation of their significance. Nothing illustrates more pointedly the development of the Monroe Doctrine of 1823 than a comparison of this "American Doctrine" with the language of Monroe's original pronunciamiento.

Unfortunately Professor Hart did not see fit to incorporate into his text a direct line-for-line comparison of the old doctrine and the new, which would have crystallized for the reader the differences between the two. Indeed the book as a whole suffers for want of judicious contrasts. Take, for example, the Doctrine laid down by Monroe and Adams. This resembles a rope, composed of many strands braided together, among them the "Future Colonization" strand, the "Intervention in the Wars of the European Powers" strand, the "Two Spheres" strand and the "Extension of a European Political System" strand. All these strands bear minute resemblance to each other and the differences between them do not become obvious at a glance. The author would have performed a valuable service, well worth the additional space, had he paused when discussing the original Monroe Doctrine to contrast and differentiate its component elements as well as to interpret these individually in order to carry the reader into the subsequent portions of the book with a clear realization that the original doctrine was a thing of many parts and a clear concept of the import of each part. For fixing points swiftly and permanently in another's mind few devices are more successful than contrast and by failing to rely to any great extent upon this simple expedient Professor Hart has deprived himself of a valuable and effective aid to clarity. At times, too, the author himself seems to be somewhat hazy upon minor points. For example, the doctrine of the "Two Spheres" appears to mean now avoidance of foreign alliances (p. 12), now non-interference with the internal concerns of European powers (p. 68), and to be invoked now for exposure as a doctrine inconsistent with the retention of any colonies by European states (p. 70), now for stigmatization as entirely obsolete (p. 367), until the perplexed reader finds himself wondering what was its actual significance to Professor Hart himself.

A graver fault, however, lurks in the chapter-construction, particularly in the first half of the book. Numerous incidents, or utterances not infrequently unrelated by express words of the text, sometimes belonging to totally distinct logical or chronological sequences will be found standing side by side as if put together almost at haphazard. Occasionally the author reduces these somewhat incoherent chapters to real unity by a section in the nature of a summary affixed to the very end (p. 140). But often the unifying principle running through the conglomeration of facts is not made plain and the reader has to obtain for himself as best he may the broad panoramic outlook in which single episodes dwindle to their proper dimensions as mere "parts of one stupendous whole". Obviously the true relations to each other of the different extracts and citations are known perfectly to the author. But unfortunately he has not always taken the pains to lay a clear perspective before his reader and the latter finds himself driven at times to the dubious expedient of piecing together the different section-headings or the laborious alternative of re-reading the entire chapter.

Although on account of these structural blemishes the work will hardly take rank as a masterpiece, the book, as a whole, leaves a very favorable impression. Historical material abounds and the complicated tripartite relations which have existed in the past between Europe, Latin-America and the United States are unraveled at length and examined with just valuation of the conflicting rights of the parties concerned. "The specious present" is always most difficult to gauge. Nevertheless the author has made a brilliant analysis of world conditions as they exist today and the causes immediately underlying them. And Professor Hart's observations concerning the future ought to prove most valuable and helpful to any person inclined to speculate about the shadowy and threatening period of readjustment of international relations which seems to be looming up at the close of the present European war.

Thomas A. Larremore.

THE MODERN LAW OF EVIDENCE. By CHARLES FREDERIC CHAMBERLAYNE. Volume V. *Media of Proof*, edited by HOWARD C. JOYCE. Albany: MATTHEW, BENDER & Co. 1916. pp. xvi, 4621-5836.

This volume, which is the second to be published after Mr. Chamberlayne's untimely death, completes his treatise on the Modern Law of Evidence. The first four volumes of the work, two of which were published in 1911, and two in 1913, are already familiar to the profession. The fifth volume, under the general heading, *Media of Proof*, includes many of the most important branches generally treated in a work on evidence. It treats of writings and documents; of the parol and the best evidence rules; of evidence by perception, "having reference to those facts of which the court requires knowledge by the exercise of its own perceptive faculties"; and lastly, of witnesses, their attendance, incompetency, examination, and impeachment, with a separate chapter on privileged communications. A table of cases for the entire work is particularly welcome, and together with an alphabetical index with cross references to the general index in volume four, does much to render the work more available. Altogether, the author has covered the field in a most comprehensive and scholarly manner. The unwieldiness of the work for ready reference, due to the unusual method of treatment and arrangement, and to the unfamiliar nomenclature employed, disappears to a large extent with use, and the searcher, once he finds the treatment of his point, is sure to be rewarded by an adequate discussion and numerous citations to cases.

BLACKSTONE'S COMMENTARIES. Edited by WILLIAM CAREY JONES. 2 Vols. San Francisco: BANCROFT-WHITNEY Co. 1915. pp. cciv, 2770.

The text of the Commentaries used in this edition is that of Hammond's Edition, 1890, which in turn was taken from the eighth edition of the Commentaries published by the Clarendon Press, Oxford, 1788, and is complete. The most valuable of Hammond's notes have been retained, and in addition to these, are notes by the editor and others intended to show the more important modifications of the common law and thus give the work present and real value as a legal treatise. There have also been incorporated extracts from such writers as Pollock, Maitland, Vinogradoff, Langdell, Burdick and other recognized authorities on the theory and practice of the law. At the end of